



2001 Wetlands Reserve Program

Program Focus — The primary focus on the Wetland Reserve Program in Delaware is restoring the many acres of prior converted cropland (PC), farmed wetlands and woodland that have been effectively drained by extensive ditch systems. The program's priority is it to fund projects where the wetlands are the most degraded. The first priority is prior converted cropland because these areas have lost both hydrology and the wetland plant community.

Delaware Summary

Overview

The Wetlands Reserve Program in Delaware restores wetlands that have been significantly degraded or impacted because of drainage or agricultural usage. In Delaware, there are several hundred miles of drainage ditches in the state, effectively removing the hydrology from historic wetlands. Many of these areas were cleared for agricultural production, while some remained in woodland. The areas are effectively restored by removing the effect of the ditches and planting the sites if the plant community needs to be restored. There are currently eight unfunded applications in the state.

Accomplishments

Delaware has 5 completed restorations, covering 122 acres. Three of the sites were previously cropland, one was drained woodland, and one was a pasture field. All of the sites are permanent easements, except one that is a restoration agreement.

Program Benefits

The WRP program in Delaware provides water quality improvements, increased wildlife habitat, especially waterfowl habitat, increased hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities, and open space preservation.

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Delaware Dollars and Contracts

Fiscal Year 2002

Congressional Districts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	\$0	0

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